

## **Culvert funding announcement**

The legislature this year made commendable progress on an incredible number of issues, from climate to education. But their **inability** to address the billions of dollars needed to fund necessary culvert repairs around the state is unacceptable.

This is a matter of urgency. And not just because the courts have told us so.

The fate of our salmon is intrinsically tied to our tribes, our orca, our economy and our very identity.

That's why I am directing my Department of Transportation to immediately ramp up its culvert repair program and I am using budget flexibility provided by the legislature to increase culvert repair spending to **\$275 million in the next biennium**.

But this is just a one-time down payment on the multi-billion dollar tab legislators left unpaid.

Let me be crystal clear: **this does not solve the problem. This does not get us off the hook.**

**We need to get this fixed next year.**

I fully expect legislators to give this issue the serious consideration it deserves when they return next session and deliver an adequate and ongoing funding plan to get this job done.

If there are any questions about this, our staff is available and happy to help with your questions once bill signing is over.